

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

OBSERVING THE BIRTHDAY OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

SPEECH OF

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 16, 2007

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and memory of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Today we celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day to remember a great American and civil rights leader, a man committed to uniting people and healing the wounds inflicted by injustice and segregation.

Dr. King embodied the spirit of the civil rights movement of the 1950s and 60s. As a teacher, a preacher, and a leader, he tuned his membership of the board of directors of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and his role with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) to help shape the nonviolent philosophy of the movement.

The 1956 Supreme Court decision declaring Alabama's segregation laws unconstitutional was one early victory in his fight for equality and justice. This victory had a tremendous personal cost for Dr. King, as he was arrested, threatened, and his house was bombed. Throughout these arduous times, Dr. King remained strong.

In 1957, Dr. King helped found and became the leader of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. This organization was formed to provide new leadership to the growing civil rights movement. Like Dr. King, the SCLC was committed to achieving its goals through nonviolent means.

He further refined his philosophy of non-violence during a journey to India in 1959. He saw nonviolent protest as the key to achieving his goals of racial equality and social justice in the face of a sometimes violent opposition.

Despite the obstacles, Dr. King continued his struggle and spoke at the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. It was during this event that he delivered his famous "I Have A Dream" speech at the Lincoln Memorial, proclaiming: "I have a dream, that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.'"

The following year, Dr. King saw his hard work come to fruition with passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. That same year, Dr. King was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, becoming the youngest person awarded the Peace Prize at that time. He chose to donate the prize money he received to further the cause of the civil rights movement.

Tragically, Dr. King's life was cut short on April 4, 1968 by a sniper's bullet. His stirring words from his speech at the Lincoln Memorial still echo today and provide us with a goal we

all share, that our "children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character."

Madam Speaker, I urge everyone to remember and reflect on his words as we commemorate Dr. King's birthday and honor his tireless work in making America a country where the rights of all people are respected and protected.

TRIBUTE TO EDWARD GOTTSCHLING

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2007

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great honor and pleasure that I stand before you today to honor one of northwest Indiana's most dedicated, distinguished, and honorable citizens. I have known Edward Gottschling for many years, and he is one of the most active and involved citizens I have ever known, especially when it comes to his service to the community. For many years, Ed has been a constant fixture in the Portage, Indiana Democratic Party and in northwest Indiana. Today, Ed is celebrating a milestone, his 80th birthday. In his honor, a celebration will be taking place on Saturday, January 20, 2007, at the Portage Yacht Club in Portage, Indiana.

Edward Gottschling was born on January 18, 1927, at his home in Gary, Indiana. As a young boy, Ed attended grammar school at Saint John's Lutheran School in the Tolleston neighborhood of Gary. Following his graduation from Tolleston High School in 1944, where he had been a standout pitcher and 4-year letter winner on the school's baseball team, Ed decided to pursue a career with the railroad. Ed began his career as a machinist helper at Elgin, Joliet, and Eastern (EJ&E) Railroad. However, in 1945, on his 18th birthday, Ed felt the need to serve his country and enlisted in the United States Coast Guard. Undoubtedly, this life-changing decision to serve became the first step in a lifetime of dedicated service to his community. Following training in New York and Miami, Ed was stationed in the San Francisco area, where he served as a seaman aboard the Grand Fork and the Key West. Ed's service ended in May 1946 when the Navy decided to make a reduction in the number of servicemen in the Coast Guard.

Upon his discharge from the service, Ed returned to work at EJ&E as an electrical apprentice. In 1954, having decided to further his education, Ed completed his courses and received his degree in electrical technology from Purdue University-Calumet in Hammond, Indiana. Prior to doing so, Ed made a decision to leave EJ&E for a new position with Illinois Bell Telephone, the company for which he would work for the next 32 years. For several years,

Ed held various positions, both indoor and outdoor, with Illinois Bell. Then, in 1959, Ed was transferred to their office in downtown Chicago, where he took on supervisory responsibilities for the company. Though Ed has many fond memories from his years at Illinois Bell, he is particularly fond of being called on to assist with the communication needs for three presidential visits to Chicago, which included visits from former Presidents Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford, and Lyndon Johnson. As if his career were not already impressive enough, Ed was eventually promoted to several other positions, including the Great Lakes Regional Communication Coordinator for the Federal Aviation Administration.

Though Ed retired from Illinois Bell in 1985, it is his lifetime of service to his community that is so astonishing. Since moving his family from Gary to Portage in 1967, Ed has always been an integral part of the Portage community. Ed has served as Portage Police Commissioner and a member of the Planning and Zoning Commission, and he has also served as the Portage area campaign coordinator for a United States Congressional race. Ed's interest in politics and government did not end there, as he has served as a precinct committeeman for the past 14 years and city councilman for the past 12 years, the last 8 of which he has served as council president.

In addition to city government, Ed has also been a very active member of many service clubs and organizations, as well as an active member of his church. He is an active member and past president of the Portage AARP chapter and a member and past commander of the Tolleston VFW post. A member of the VFW for many years, Ed has even held the distinguished post of district commander. Ed is also a lifetime member of the Portage American Legion and Gary Sportsmen's Club and an active member of the Portage Democratic Club. Since the age of 16, Ed has also been a member of the Saxon Lodge, where he has held numerous posts, including club president. As if his commitment to these organizations were not enough, Ed has always dedicated himself to fighting for the needs of the elderly and disabled, as evidenced by his membership with the Porter County Aging and Community Service Corporation and his service on the State Legislative Committee for the AARP and the Governor's Commission on Aging.

Though Ed has a special place in his heart for his community, his greatest love has always been his family. Ed and his wife, Nina, who passed away in 1994 after nearly 43 years of marriage, were the truest example of a loving and committed marriage. The couple raised two very successful children. Dan resides in Seattle, Washington with his wife, Barb, and Laura resides in Crystal Lake, Illinois with her husband, Robert, and children, Mitchell and Stuart. Though he has committed himself to serving his community, Ed's devotion to his family is equally impressive.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Madam Speaker, Edward Gottschling has given his time and efforts selflessly to the people of Portage, Indiana throughout his many years of service. At this time, I ask that you and all of my distinguished colleagues join me in commending him for his lifetime of service and dedication to his community. Also, I ask that you join me in wishing him a very happy 80th birthday.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM "BILL"
FERGUSON

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2007

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, today I rise in sadness over the passing of William "Bill" Ferguson, who suffered a fatal car accident in Miami-Dade County last week. He was a wonderful person, highly educated, and highly motivated and his passing is a great loss for our community.

His family and friends will memorialize him at a "going home" celebration to be held this Friday, January 19, 2007 at the historic Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Overtown. Mr. Ferguson was a brilliant attorney and counselor, and he was a consummate community activist.

Bill Ferguson's work with Ms. Georgia Ayers's Alternative Program has helped hundreds of men and women become responsible citizens of our community. His work gave hope and courage to countless folks who had been marginalized by their experiences with crime and prison. Some may have given up on them, but Mr. Ferguson's knowledge of the law and his commitment to working with all individuals irrespective of past transgressions made all the difference in countless lives. At work, he was a real marvel to witness.

He was born in November 6, 1946, to James Ferguson and Pauline Holland Ferguson. Having served his country with integrity in the U.S. Navy, he obtained his bachelor's degree in political science at Indiana State University in 1978. He went on to get his law degree from Texas Southern University's Thurgood Marshall School of Law in 1982 in Houston, TX. Not satisfied with his master's degree in law, he pursued another master's degree in counseling from Indiana State University, his alma mater.

He moved to Miami in 1985 where he met Ms. Georgia Ayers, who introduced him to her innovative and award-winning Alternative Program. In his role as "house attorney" and psychologist-counselor, he went above and beyond the call of duty to reach out to needy clients. The collective testimony of praise and gratitude from people in our community is testimony to the utmost respect that people had for Bill Ferguson.

His character and his dedication to helping the less fortunate members of our community defined his leadership. His word was his bond to those who dealt with him—not only in moments of triumphal exuberance in helping many a wayward youth, but also in his quest to transform their lives by the simple rules of good conduct and responsible citizenship.

As we honor William "Bill" Ferguson, I will fondly remember this good man. Our pride in sharing his friendship is only exceeded by our

deep gratitude for all that he has given to our community.

STEM CELL RESEARCH
ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 11, 2007

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3, the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act.

Through the election, the American people have shown their overwhelming support for the expansion of stem cell research. This legislation will expand lifesaving research and ensures that the Federal Government can implement ethical guidelines. I am proud to be a co-sponsor of H.R. 3, and I applaud Speaker PELOSI, Majority Leader HOYER, and Congresswoman DEGETTE for bringing forward this legislation which reflects the priorities and the needs of the American people.

This bill will provide hope and opportunity for millions of Americans suffering from chronic and life threatening health conditions. This legislation will also ensure that the Federal Government can implement ethical guidelines over federally funded research, which will help to set high standards for all research. To be clear, H.R. 3 only allows Federal funding for embryonic stem cell research in cases where the cells were created for fertility treatment and will otherwise be discarded.

The expansion of funding to stem cell research has the power to make a real difference in the lives of Americans. Stem cells offer remarkable potential contributions to medical science and improve the lives of millions of people who suffer from incurable diseases such as juvenile diabetes, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, AIDS, and spinal cord injuries. It may also help us to understand abnormal cell growth that occurs in cancer, as well as change the way we develop drugs and test them for safety and potential efficacy.

Recent research at Wake Forest University has shown that stem cells obtained from amniotic fluid have been able to differentiate into several cell types. This is an exciting development, but we cannot stop there. According to the study's director, Dr. Anthony Atala, it is essential to expand embryonic stem cell research, which is why he supports H.R. 3. Attached is Dr. Atala's letter in support of this important bill. In addition, I also submit an edited version of patient advocate, Peter Morton's valuable and powerful testimony to the need for this critical research.

It is imperative that we move our health care policy in a new direction and support efforts to improve the quality of life. This research is supported by 72 percent of Americans and the majority of the Congress. H.R. 3 is supported by over 200 patient groups, universities, and scientific societies, and has been endorsed by more than 75 national and local newspapers and eighty Nobel Laureates.

It is time to stop making policies based on ideology. The American people have spoken, and we can no longer delay the implementation of this vital legislation. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 3.

WAKE FOREST INSTITUTE FOR
REGENERATIVE MEDICINE,
Winston-Salem, NC, January 8, 2007.

Hon. DIANA DEGETTE,
Hon. MICHAEL CASTLE,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVES DEGETTE AND CASTLE: I am writing in regard to my research that was published in Nature Biotechnology that found that stem cells obtained from amniotic fluid have been able to differentiate into several cell types. This research has the potential to open up an important field of inquiry that could be critically important to the development of treatments within the field of regenerative medicine.

I understand that some may be interpreting my research as a substitute for the need to pursue other forms of regenerative medicine therapies, such as those involving embryonic stem cells. I disagree with that assertion. It is very possible that research involving embryonic stem cells will have critical implications for advancing research into amniotic fluid stem cells. It is essential that National Institute of Health-funded researchers are able to fully pursue embryonic stem cell research as a complement to research into other forms of stem cells.

Your legislation, the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act of 2007, H.R. 3, would update the current federal embryonic stem cell policy and allow federally funded researchers to conduct research on an expanded set of embryonic stem cells within an ethical framework. I believe this legislation would speed science in the regenerative medicine field, and I support its passage.

Sincerely,

ANTHONY ATALA,
Director.

EMBRYONIC STEM CELL RESEARCH
TESTIMONIAL

Like more than 250,000 Americans, I am paralyzed from a spinal cord injury.

I've been paralyzed from neck down and ventilator dependent since a bike riding accident in 1995. I wasn't going fast and the trail wasn't difficult. Likely due to some mud on the trail, my front tire slipped, and in an instant I was on the ground with a broken neck, paralyzed and unable to breathe. If not for quick action by my brother, I would not have survived. That day, I lost the lottery. Tomorrow, it could just as easily be you.

When I awoke the next day in the hospital, I couldn't move, I couldn't feel, my head was in traction, and I had tubes in my nose and mouth. All I could do was blink. In an instant I had lost all my cherished independence, having to rely on others for everything from simply a drink of water to all the indignities of one's morning routine.

Most people understand that paralysis means you can't move. What they don't realize is that it also means you can't feel. Further, all the body's systems are affected, causing temperature and blood pressure instability as well as sexual, bowel, and bladder dysfunction. In spite of all this, do you know what the toughest part for me is now? . . . not being able to touch my kids.

Now, more than any other time in history, there is hope. Embryonic stem cells hold the possibility of replacing the cells killed by the injury. Very promising studies are being performed around the world that demonstrate the potential of embryonic stem cells to solve paralysis and many other devastating illnesses. For humanitarian reasons, we simply must pursue this potential.

There is one other point that must be made. I cut my teeth in the business world. When I was injured, I was the CFO of a major

brokerage operations company. In addition to their humanitarian benefit, stem cells have the potential to be the next medical industrial revolution. America has always been the leader in medical technology. Minnesota in particular has been called Medical Alley. America and Minnesota need to be leading the way in stem cell research, not sitting on the sidelines, watching the rest of the world pass us by.

In closing, let me offer this: A generation ago, pioneers in medical research developed in vitro fertilization, a technique that has now enabled my wife and me to have two beautiful children. My kids are living examples of the power of medical research.

I do not support slowing down the discoveries this research offers to millions, and allowing other countries to surpass America's leadership in medical technology.

That's why I am speaking out now, for the next generation. I don't want my children or anybody else's children to be told one day, "You are paralyzed, and will never move again."

I support those who champion this important research and thank them for helping change the future.

COLLEGE STUDENT RELIEF ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2007

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to voice my strong support for H.R. 5, the College Student Relief Act.

This important piece of legislation will make it easier for all students to attend college, and help reduce the burden on middle class families struggling to give their children a chance for a greater future with more opportunities.

Madam Speaker, if education is truly a priority of this country and this government, then let us act now and put our money where our mouth is. There is nothing more important to the future of this country than providing all of our children with a great education, and preparing them for a world which they will someday be required to lead.

Providing our children with the opportunity to receive an affordable college education is a legacy we can all be proud of, and is one that can define this 110th Congress in the most positive light.

At a time when college education is continually skyrocketing and middle and lower class families are seeing their budgets being constantly squeezed, lowering the interest rates on college loans will help those who need it most in our society.

Though some will say that the American economy has been booming over the last few years, and they will point to record increases in profits, salaries, and bonuses as proof, unfortunately Madam Speaker, many Americans have been left out of this great wealth and prosperity.

Today, we have an opportunity to help all Americans. By enacting this bill we are extending the opportunity for a brighter future through education to all sectors and classes of our society. American families need this bill. America needs this bill.

According to the Congressional Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance,

increased college costs will prevent over 4.4 million high school graduates from entering a four-year public institution over the next decade. I repeat, over 4.4 million, students will be unable to afford a quality college education over the next decade, Madam Speaker.

This restriction on higher education will not only hurt students and families, but it will have a devastating effect on our country as a whole.

At a time when the global economy is becoming more competitive and America's dominance in the fields of science, math, engineering, and technology is being challenged by countries all over the world, we need to be providing more opportunity to our best and brightest students, and give those who have been stuck in the generational cycles of poverty and despair, a chance to improve their life situations, and give their families opportunities that have eluded them in the past.

By the year 2020, according to the American Youth Policy Forum, the United States will be facing a dire shortage of college-educated workers that threatens our entire economy.

Madam Speaker we must act now to confront this threat. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill with bipartisan support, because doing so makes sense, and failure to do so will lead to consequences down the road that will affect our entire economy and way of life.

MOURNING THE LOSS OF THOMAS G. LYONS

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2007

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of my friend Tom Lyons, and I offer my deepest condolences to his family after his passing at the age of 75. Tom was a dedicated public servant who touched many lives and consistently rose to any challenge that came his way.

Thomas G. Lyons was born in Chicago in 1931, and he served his country honorably throughout his life. As a student at Loyola University of Chicago's School of Law, Mr. Lyons enlisted in the Army, where he rose to the rank of Captain in the Army Rangers, garnering recognition for his leadership and spirit.

Mr. Lyons took his lessons from Law School and the Army to his service as a litigator for the Cook County Assessor's Office, and later for the Illinois Attorney General's Office.

In 1964, Mr. Lyons successfully ran for a seat in the Illinois State Senate, where he would ascend to the Chairmanship of the State Senate Appropriations Committee.

In 1990, Mr. Lyons was elected to the Chairmanship of the Cook County Democratic Party, where he was its proud steward and a strong presence for seventeen years until his passing. During this period, Tom served with devotion and humility, always willing to lend a hand to any candidate, regardless of the scope or influence of the particular office.

In 1994, Tom was the recipient of an executive appointment by President Clinton to the American Battle Monuments Commission, in recognition of his years of service to our Nation and our military.

For over 40 years, Mr. Lyons dedicated his life to our Nation with steadfast dedication, humility, and geniality. In his home of Cook County, Tom's legacy of leadership will remain for years to come. Mr. Lyons is succeeded by his wife, Ruth, his three children, Alexandra, Rachel, and Thomas, and his eight grandchildren. I extend my deepest condolences and gratitude to the family of Mr. Lyons. We will miss him.

ESSAY BY MR. ANDREW O'ROUKE

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2007

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to congratulate Mr. Andrew O'Rourke for his articulate essay on the impact of the recent mid-term elections on the current U.S. policy in Iraq. Andrew is a 20-year-old sophomore at the University of Marquette, where his studies have focused on communications, business, and political science courses. His hard work in school has resulted in good grades, and he plans on attending law school after graduation. I am truly impressed by his insights, as well as the quality of his work.

Andrew's essay encapsulates much of the frustration with America's direction that has been felt by my constituents in the First District of Indiana. His essay also expresses the desire for positive change in America. Andrew compels his readers to think hard about what this country means to them. He writes of the pitfalls of shortsightedness in foreign policy, as well as the importance of protecting our civil liberties here at home. Finally, he calls on the need for bipartisanship in order to form a strong-willed consensus for the road ahead.

Madam Speaker, Andrew O'Rourke is an example of the great potential exhibited by the young people of northwest Indiana. Below, you will find the text of his essay, which I would like to have included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. At this time, I ask that you and all of my distinguished colleagues join me in commending Andrew O'Rourke for his well-written essay. I wish him continued success in all his endeavors.

While Democrats are better equipped now to make some difference in President Bush's foreign policy, no force will be able to influence the President more than a united Republican thrust in favor of U.S. troop withdrawal.

President Bush has proved rather stubborn on the subject of his foreign policy, specifically the aspects of said policy pertaining to Iraq and well, the entire Middle East in general. Despite the sweeping restructuring of the House and Senate during the mid-term elections, President Bush appears still to have no intent on altering the current policy in Iraq. An excerpt from a recent New York Times editorial summarizes my argument quite well. The like-minded author of this article believes that the President, "for all of his professed pipe dreams about democracy in the Middle East, refuses to surrender to democracy's verdict at home."

It seems an indictment of our system, supposedly the best in the world, that a mid-term election could serve the umbrella purpose of a referendum on one specifically controversial and pivotal policy, only to have

the said election results have absolutely no effect on the policy. That does not fit the definition of representative democracy I was raised to believe in since grade school. Elected officials do not possess the right to represent the people when and if they chose, as though they know best. We do not live under a benevolent dictator, where the power of decision is placed in the hands of a ruler whom we must trust to make a conclusion we are otherwise deemed incapable of making ourselves. Nor do we live in a country where the wealthy elite enjoy all of the authority, sending young men and women of the poor and middle classes off to become maimed Purple Heart veterans and dead Medal of Honor heroes, fighting in an utterly fruitless quagmire of a war. Especially of late however, the aforementioned possibilities seem likely explanations for the current shameful, stubborn, and painfully simplistic foreign policy utilized by our great nation, with its outrageously gigantic economy, technologically superior mechanized army, and not to forget, insatiable thirst for pure, unadulterated, according-to-hoyle victory. Although many would love to believe such a naive, black-and-white definition of victory, sadly like most things in this world it is not that simple. Victory is a word that, for every conceivable variable, from the largest, most holy mosque destroyed by American artillery fire to the youngest Iraqi girl whose parents were brutally murdered by either a Sunni or Shiite death squad, has numerous definitions. You cannot limit yourself to one characterization of what victory is, for that is a direct route to complete failure and disappointment, as we see everyday on CNN, when we are told the story of another Joe Everyman 21-year-old private-first class from anywhere USA who was killed on a humvee patrol mission aimed at securing the other ninety-five percent of Iraq not secured over three years ago when we triumphantly declared mission accomplished, and were immediately showered with flowers by the Iraqi people. And to those within this country who believe that to withdraw will be a crushing blow against American pride and standing in the world, expound such blind patriotism when it is your son or daughter walking the streets of Baghdad with no idea whether the next street corner will be populated by a nearly invisible IED, exactly like those that have crippled so many young, promise-filled Americans, or one of the many deceptively well-hidden snipers who make steady sport of firing potshots from a spire outside of an untouchably holy Mosque, hitting our young men and women when they least expect it. It is for these American heroes that I, along with most Americans must hope President Bush's current policy is a success.

Because I know in my heart of hearts that this administration is too prideful to consider taking a hint from the American people, or the 9/11 Commission, or the Iraq Study Group, I am forced to cheer for any alternative to the current policy of "stay the course" while simultaneously hoping that the abovementioned "course staying" rises like the Phoenix from the ashes and succeeds. If Mr. Bush's strategy is a success, which it appears as though, barring some unforeseen circumstance, it most definitely will not be, it will be a victory for the American fighting man and woman, because until the next pre-emptive war, they will be safe. But will the next be somewhere in Asia, Northern Africa, or most likely the Middle East yet again? Iran and Syria both seem hell bent on becoming America's Tour of the Arab World stops two and three.

Most likely it will take Republican pressure and lots of it to revise in any way the single-minded policy of this administration. Nevertheless, it is a heartrending day for de-

mocracy when the resounding message of the American people is deemed secondary to the egocentric and stubborn strategy of a few white men (and black woman) who call a giant, white, house on Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington D.C. their office.

To reiterate an earlier point, the leaders of this nation are not free to choose what is in our best interest, when we the people have clearly and resoundingly spoken against the current ideals and strategies. The current policy quite simply costs too many Americans and Iraqis their lives without a foreseeable goal or proverbial light at the end of the tunnel. Rather, they have a solemn obligation to represent the views of the people of this country. But who knows? Maybe a benevolent dictator would make things a whole lot easier for most people in this country. Who likes freedom anyways?

TRIBUTE TO GIFFORD CARL RAMSEY

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2007

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the late Gifford Carl Ramsey, a fellow trooper and colleague in the Florida Highway Patrol. He died on January 10, 2007—a victim of cancer—and will be buried this Saturday, January 20, 2007, at Glendale Baptist Church in Miami-Dade County's Richmond Heights community.

Born on January 16, 1959, to Gifford and Agatha Ramsey, he was affectionately called "Spanky" by those of his closest friends and teammates, who played on the football team at Florida A&M University. Awarded a full athletic scholarship, he led the Rattlers on the gridiron by winning two consecutive national football titles in 1977 and 1978, and was honored as Division I-AA and Black College All-American.

Ever since I have known Trooper Ramsey as a member of the Florida Highway Patrol's 66th Recruit Class of 1982, he eminently served above and beyond the call of duty until his promotion to Sergeant in July 2006. He also volunteered as chaplain of the National Black State Trooper's Coalition and became the vice president of the Florida Coalition of Black State Troopers.

Responding to an inner calling of consecrating his life to the service of God, he affirmed his vocation by accepting Jesus Christ as his personal Savior in 1988 and joined the congregation of Glendale Missionary Baptist Church under the tutelage of the late Reverend Joseph Coats, Sr. On January 20, 1993, he met his future wife, Lisa Smith of Philadelphia, PA, and married her a year later on July 9, 1994. Two children, Jarrett and Jayla, were born out of this happy union. Thereupon, he and his wife became partners in God's Vineyard, and in 2001, Trooper Gifford "Spanky" Ramsey was ordained a Deacon of Glendale Baptist Church.

Blessed with an unenviable commonsense approach to life, he was also imbued with the rare wisdom of recognizing the strengths and limitations of the members of his congregation and those he served. Trooper Ramsey went about the duties of his profession, and he also became a missionary at home and abroad, serving a short-term tenure in Cape Town, South Africa.

Trooper and Deacon Ramsey was my good friend, and I am deeply saddened by his passing. He was my mentor ever since I became a trooper in the Florida Highway Patrol in 1989. Indeed, he will be an indelible reminder of the noble commitment of public service, and the awesome power of his religious vocation to minister to the youth under the aegis of programs such as the Juvenile Justice Center Read Aloud Program, the Governor's Mentoring Initiative, Special Olympics Fundraising Events, Child Passenger Safety Details in both Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties. His faith was deep and genuine, and his love for Glendale Baptist Church defined his dynamic friendship and understanding. No one who knew Trooper "Spanky"—and being struck by his sunny disposition and optimism—went away not acknowledging the presence of a caring community leader.

Like the God he faithfully served during the remaining years of his life, this trooper and gentleman came and lived among us that we may have life and have hope more abundantly. True to his faith, Reverend Ramsey would urge us to believe that his death does not represent an irrevocable finality, and he would assure us that he will live on in the good deeds he left behind. Indeed, no life could be more revered for having fulfilled his vocation as God's faithful steward. I will cherish the wonderful memories I have of his magnificent friendship.

MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG PRICE NEGOTIATION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 12, 2007

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 4, the Medicare Prescription Drug Price Negotiation Act. I am proud to be a cosponsor of H.R. 4, and I congratulate Speaker PELOSI and Majority Leader HOYER for keeping their promise to the American people by taking this important step to place access to quality care for America's seniors and fiscal responsibility for taxpayers over increasing corporate profits.

The Republican Medicare Modernization Act of 2003 included an unprecedented provision outright prohibiting the Federal Government from negotiating for lower prescription drug prices. The result was predictable. Drug company profits soared, while drug prices increased for seniors and persons with disabilities. A July 2006 New York Times article reported that pharmaceutical companies may have received a more than \$2 billion windfall last year as a result of the transfer of low-income Medicaid recipients into the Medicare Part D program. Profiting from the sale of medications for our most vulnerable citizens is unacceptable.

H.R. 4 will require the Department of Health and Human Services, HHS, to negotiate for lower drug prices on behalf of Medicare beneficiaries. This legislation does not say how the negotiating authority should be implemented, but instead allows the Secretary of Health and Human Services to determine the best way to negotiate for the lowest prices.

I have held several town halls in my district about Medicare Part D, and each time my

constituents have clearly stated that a ban on negotiating for lower prescription drug costs makes no sense. H.R. 4 is supported by community pharmacists, AARP, consumer rights' groups, and dozens of other organizations. Additionally, negotiating for lower prescription drug costs is not a new idea. States, corporations, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and large pharmacy chains all negotiate to receive price discounts on prescription drugs. In fact, HHS already has experience negotiating for lower prescription drug costs. In 2001, the agency successfully negotiated for lower prices for Cipro, the medication used in response to the anthrax attacks. It is time for HHS to use this expertise to benefit America's seniors and persons with disabilities.

Clearly, there is still much more work to be done to correct the many inadequacies of Medicare Part D, but H.R. 4 is an important first step, and one which will result in lower drug costs and real savings for millions of seniors and people with disabilities.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 4.

HONORING MUHAMMAD ALI ON HIS 65TH BIRTHDAY

SPEECH OF

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2007

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to wish a very happy birthday to the former heavyweight champion of the world, and the undisputed greatest boxer of all time, Muhammad Ali.

Mr. Speaker, Muhammad Ali never shied away from speaking his mind on issues concerning racial inequality, social injustice and human rights issues, either while he was heavyweight champion, or today, as he continues to be a world leader on these issues.

Since retiring from boxing, Ali has raised over \$50 million for charities here in the U.S. and around the globe, and he has delivered millions in food and medical supplies to countries throughout Africa and Asia.

He has been on international aid missions to Cuba, and he played a key role in getting American hostages released from Iraq before the start of the Persian Gulf war.

Muhammad Ali's penchant for peacemaking was recognized by U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan in 1998 when Ali was named a U.N. Messenger of Peace.

While serving at the U.N., he also worked to build the Muhammad Ali Center in his hometown of Louisville, KY, to promote respect, hope and understanding among all people, and which strives to help all individuals realize the greatness within them.

Standing on principle and never casting aspersions on those who challenged his moral convictions, Ali objected to the war in Vietnam, and refused to be inducted into the U.S. Army in 1967.

As a consequence, Ali was indicted for draft evasion, convicted, and was stripped of his boxing title. Eventually Ali was ultimately vindicated in the United States Supreme Court, which overturned his conviction, by a unanimous vote in 1971, but not before losing valuable years of his livelihood and being wrongly

accused of being unpatriotic and disloyal to the country he loved so dearly.

Muhammad Ali would regain his boxing title in 1974, but far more important was the manner in which he wore the mantle of champion.

Mr. Speaker, Muhammad Ali is not only one of the greatest athletes of our time, he has become one of the most recognized and beloved people in the world, and he insists on using his celebrity to help his fellow man and woman.

His athletic prowess made him famous, but it is his heart and good deeds that will have cemented his place in our hearts forever.

Muhammad Ali is a hero in every sense of the world, and we all owe him a debt of gratitude for his role in making America a more conscientious and better country.

MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 12, 2007

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 4, the Medicare Prescription Drug Negotiation Act. This legislation corrects a grave mistake of the past by striking a provision in the Medicare Modernization Act of 2003 which prohibited the Secretary of Health and Human Services from directly negotiating with pharmaceutical companies. In addition, H.R. 4 explicitly requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services to directly negotiate with the pharmaceutical industry for lower prescription drug prices.

This legislation is necessary because Medicare drug plans have failed to obtain significant price discounts for seniors. In fact, the drug plans' prices are over 60 percent higher than prices for identical drugs in Canada. Requiring the Secretary to negotiate with the drug companies will bring much needed relief to millions of Medicare beneficiaries.

More than 90 percent of Americans agree that the Secretary should be directly negotiating with the pharmaceutical industry.

Unfortunately, the current Secretary has said he does not support the underlying legislation. His predecessor, though, has demonstrated the authority for and efficacy of the HHS Secretary negotiating with the pharmaceutical industry for lower prices. In 2001, former HHS Secretary Tommy Thompson successfully negotiated a reduced price for Cipro. In fact, the Secretary negotiated the price down from \$4.67 to \$1.77 per dose—a reduction of nearly 500 percent. Additionally, when Secretary Thompson resigned his position at HHS, he explicitly stated he wished Congress had given him the power to negotiate with drug manufacturers to secure lower prices for Medicare beneficiaries.

The Medicare Prescription Drug Negotiation Act will save seniors money both at the pharmacy counter and in the form of lower premiums.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud that helping seniors obtain prescription drugs at prices they can afford is part of the Democratic 100 hours plan. I thank the gentlemen from California and Michigan, and the gentlewoman from Missouri for their leadership on this issue, and I

urge my colleagues to join me in voting for H.R. 4, the Medicare Prescription Drug Negotiation Act.

THE ANNIVERSARY OF "BLACK JANUARY" IN AZERBAIJAN

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2007

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, on January 20th, the people of Azerbaijan, both at home and abroad, will commemorate the 16th anniversary of what has become known as Black January. The terrible event remembered by this commemoration was an atrocity—but it also gave birth to a hope that led eventually to independence and freedom.

At around midnight, on the night of January 19–20, 1990, Azerbaijan was invaded by 26,000 Soviet troops pursuant to a state of emergency that had been declared in secret by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet in Moscow. Dozens of people would be dead in the streets of Baku, Azerbaijan's capital, before the Soviet authorities in Moscow even deigned to acknowledge that a decision had been made to suppress the pro-independence and pro-democracy movement in Azerbaijan.

A courageous resistance by Azerbaijanis to the Soviet invasion continued into February. Eventually, 140 Azerbaijanis were killed, about 700 more were wounded, and still hundreds more were rounded up and detained indefinitely.

The Soviet attack against innocent civilians in Azerbaijan followed massacres in other constituent republics in the then-Soviet Union, including Kazakhstan in 1986 and Georgia in 1989. Tragically, the Azerbaijani experience would be replicated in large part 1 year later in Lithuania.

In a report issued shortly after the tragedy of Black January, Human Rights Watch put the onrush of events into a larger perspective: "... the violence used by the Soviet Army on the night of January 19–20 was so out of proportion to the resistance offered by Azerbaijanis as to constitute an exercise in collective punishment. The punishment inflicted on Baku by Soviet soldiers may have been intended as a warning to nationalists, not only in Azerbaijan, but in the other Republics of the Soviet Union."

But brute force was not enough to hold the Soviet Union together.

Indeed, Mr. Speaker, the night of January 19–20, 1990 gave birth to Azerbaijan's independence. It was on that night that Azerbaijanis lost their fear of the Soviet Union. It was on that night that Azerbaijanis realized their dream of independence and freedom could not, and would not, be denied.

On August 30, 1991, in the wake of the attempted coup in the Soviet Union, Azerbaijan declared its independence—one of the first constituent republics to do so. And the last troops from the former Soviet Union were finally removed from Azerbaijani soil in 1993.

Every January 20, as many thousands gather in Martyr's Cemetery in the hills above Baku, the dead are honored and the nation's commitment to independence, democracy, and freedom is renewed. The victims of Black January did not die in vain.

HONORING TOM TEMIN

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2007

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Tom Temin for over 17 years of service providing the Federal technology community with unbiased, accurate, and timely information.

Through Mr. Temin's role as executive vice president and editor in chief of Government Computer News, Washington Technology, Defense Systems, Government Leader and other technology publications, he has brought valuable insight and creative journalism to the Federal IT arena.

Under Tom's guidance Government Computer News has become a premier IT magazine providing objective and comprehensive rankings of the usefulness and overall value of technology as it reaches the market. Leaders in the executive branch, both Houses of Congress and the broader technology community have come to consider the editorials he has written for Government Computer News as shrewd and perceptive analysis of the implications of IT trends.

The newspaper's fair and unyielding pursuit of issues showing the flaws and faults in the Federal technology sector has prompted numerous reforms that continue to conserve funds and improve performance for the American taxpayers.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to commend and congratulate Mr. Tom Temin on all of his accomplishments. His tireless efforts have deeply impacted the public discussion of IT issues in the Federal Government, truly meriting recognition. I call upon my colleagues to join me in applauding Tom for his past accomplishments and in wishing him continued success in the years to come.

MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG NEGOTIATION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 12, 2007

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this critical legislation.

The Part D prescription drug plan has caused mass confusion and, unfortunately, provided more in profits to drug companies than savings to seniors.

Private corporations, large pharmacy chains, and individual states all use their bargaining power to secure lower drug prices for the patients they represent. It simply makes no sense that the Department of Health and Human Services is prohibited from negotiating on behalf of millions more seniors.

In fact, a recent study by Families USA found that Medicare beneficiaries pay an average of 58 percent more for the same prescription drugs sold to patients who receive their drugs from the Veterans Department, which can negotiate cheaper prices.

Using the bargaining power of 42 million Medicare enrollees to secure the best drug prices for our seniors could save billions, according to some estimates.

These savings could then be used to begin to close the infamous "doughnut hole" or gaps in coverage that millions of seniors experienced last year and are expected to experience again in 2007.

Allowing the Secretary of Health and Human Services to negotiate prices won't solve all of the problems associated with the drug benefit but it will set us on the right course toward providing our seniors with the comprehensive, affordable drug coverage they deserve.

I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on this important bill.

A TRIBUTE TO REPRESENTATIVE EDD NYE

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2007

Mr. MCINTYRE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor North Carolina Representative Edd Nye and to thank him for more than 30 years of loyal public service to the people of Southeastern North Carolina. Representative Nye began his career in public service by joining the United States Air Force and launched his political career in 1966 as a Bladen County Commissioner. Mr. Nye served one term in the North Carolina State Senate before moving on to the N.C. House of Representatives, where he would go on to serve as a Representative for 30 years. As a loyal and dedicated North Carolina lawmaker, Representative Nye received "Legislator of the Year" awards from numerous advocacy groups, including the Autism Society, the Easter Seals, the Health Directors' Association, and the Mental Health Association. Such distinguished commitment and work are true signs of his dedication to his constituents. Indeed, Representative Nye is a role model for us all.

In addition to his political service, Mr. Nye is also an active member of his community in Bladen County. He has taught Sunday School and served as a deacon at the Elizabethtown Baptist Church. He is a past moderator of the Bladen Baptist Association, a former trustee of both Bladen Community College and Southeastern Mental Health, and an active member of the Bladen Masonic Lodge. Madam Speaker, I commend Edd Nye for his leadership, longevity, and love for the people of Bladen County and North Carolina. He has performed his civic duty with grace, and he has been ever mindful of the people he represents. May God's strength, joy, and peace be with him always.

COLLEGE STUDENT RELIEF ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2007

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5, the College Student Relief Act. The rising cost of education is a concern for students and parents across the country. Occasionally, I hold office hours at grocery stores in my district back in Chicago.

Every time people attend to share their concerns my constituents let me know that they are worried about the cost of higher education.

They worry about being able to send their children to college without taking out a new mortgage on their homes or working a second job. They worry about dipping into their retirement savings in order to pay the exorbitant cost of tuition. And they are not only worried, but they are also shocked by the tuition increases from year to year for their children who are already in college.

It is our responsibility to make sure that the price of a college education does not close doors for the future leaders of America. Today we will correct a grave mistake of the past and pass the College Student Relief Act—ensuring those doors never close.

This legislation is long overdue. The last Congress neglected to deal with college affordability—allowing the cost to skyrocket and leaving millions behind in their desire for a higher education. Tuition and fees at public universities have increased by 41 percent since 2001, and interest rates on student loans have risen to record-breaking highs. The maximum Pell grant was frozen in the President's budget for a fourth year in a row. Today, the maximum Pell grant covers only 41 percent of the cost of attending college—about half of what it covered three decades ago.

In my home state of Illinois, the average graduate from a state university leaves with more than \$15,000 in debt. This massive debt limits the choices that graduates can make, and discourages many students from seeking a college education at all.

The College Student Relief Act takes the first step toward correcting this great injustice, providing real relief to students and middle class families by making a college education more affordable and accessible.

A college education should be as universal in the 21st century as a high school education was in the 20th century. This legislation is the first step towards accomplishing that goal.

Madam Speaker, I am proud that helping students with their college loans is part of the Democratic 100 hours plan. I thank the gentleman from California for his leadership on this issue, and I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for H.R. 5, the College Student Relief Act.

PEACE FOR THE MIDDLE EAST

HON. THELMA D. DRAKE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2007

Mrs. DRAKE. Madam Speaker, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice recently announced that Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas would meet with her to discuss how peace can finally be brought to the Middle East. I am pleased to hear of this three-way meeting and believe a meaningful resolution is long overdue.

Since the year 2000, Israel has demonstrated a willingness to act unilaterally in the name of peace; only to have their enemies respond with more acts of violence. In 2000, Israel withdrew its forces from southern Lebanon, only to be followed by Hezbollah and its missiles. In 2005, Israel unilaterally withdrew

from Gaza, only to be replaced by the militant wing of the Hamas party. These are just two examples of the terrorism the Israeli people have experienced over time.

Madam Speaker, there will be no peace in the Middle East so long as these terrorist organizations insist on the destruction of Israel. There will be no peace, until Hamas agrees to curtail acts of violence and aggression and show that they are willing to work toward a two-state solution.

More importantly, there will be no peace in the Middle East until the world community speaks out against terrorism with one voice. And, when a world leader sways from this commitment, we take one step back.

Madam Speaker, we took one step back from reaching peace in the Middle East when former President Jimmy Carter published his book, *Palestine: Peace Not Apartheid*. In his book, Mr. Carter puts the onus for Middle East peace on Israel, stating that it is Israel who is keeping peace from occurring in the Middle East. I strongly disagree with this analysis.

I was recently contacted by one of my constituents in Virginia Beach about this book. Rabbi Israel Zoberman, the founding rabbi and spiritual leader of Congregation Beth Chaverim, wrote:

How disappointing that the distinguished author of *Palestine: Peace Not Apartheid*, Jimmy Carter, who served as the 38th President of the United States, has written a book that fails to promote the very goal of peace which he is no doubt committed to. In fact, the title bluntly suggests along with the very essence of the narrative that Israel's policy vis-a-vis the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza is the core obstacle to the elusive peace. President Carter thus fails as the honest broker he proudly was when sponsoring the 1979 Israel-Egypt peace treaty.

The mere suggestion of practiced apartheid by Israel is inflammatory enough in alluding to South Africa's overthrown policy. Thus, the book's title with the word "apartheid" in it and the cover's photo of the controversial security barrier, which are surely designed for sales' purposes, are irresponsible . . . To speak of Hezbollah and Hamas as if they were representing freedom fighters only seeking to remove Israel from the occupied territories is unfortunately not so. The means employed by the terrorists disregard civilian lives by using their own women and children as human shields.

Madam Speaker, in August 2005, I had the privilege of visiting Israel. It was truly a life-changing experience which helped put into perspective the crisis facing this generation of Israelis. Every generation is confronted with a moment of truth. We are at that moment now. Our duty as responsible statesmen and world leaders is to promote dialogue and action so that all families, whether they are Israeli or Palestinian can live without fear.

TRIBUTE TO AUDREY C. RUST,
PRESIDENT OF THE PENINSULA
OPEN SPACE TRUST

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2007

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Audrey C. Rust, who is celebrating her 20th anniversary of leadership at the Peninsula Open Space Trust, POST.

Ms. Rust is a graduate of the University of Connecticut, and prior to joining the Peninsula Open Space Trust as its executive director in 1987, served as the director of development and membership for the Sierra Club. She also directed West Coast capital giving programs for Yale University and served in a variety of development capacities for Stanford University. She has also served as a member of the board of directors of the Land Trust Alliance and the League of Conservation Voters in Washington, DC.

Under her leadership, POST has worked effectively through public-private partnerships to acquire and protect over 50,000 acres of land on the San Francisco peninsula. These lands have become parts of the National Park System, the National Wildlife Refuge System, California State Parks, county and city parks, regional open space preserves and private farmland. Ms. Rust's vision helped bring POST to the national stage and on multiple occasions Congress has voted to support her efforts by providing funds for public land purchases and the adoption of POST lands into national areas of conservation. I am particularly proud of our work together on the acquisition of the Phleger estate, now part of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, and Bair Island, now part of the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge.

Ms. Rust's work on land conservation is nationally recognized. She has received the League of California Voters Environmental Leadership Award, the Times Mirror-Chevron National Conservationist of the Year Award; the Cynthia Pratt Laughlin Medal, the Garden Club of America's top environmental honor, and the Jacqueline Kennedy Award from John F. Kennedy University.

There are few who embody the commitment to conservation and our collective future as Ms. Rust does. In POST's most recent Annual Report, Ms. Rust wrote:

Open space defines our sense of place on the Peninsula, and it is worth saving, because it is where we as humans touch mysteries that last long after we are gone. It is the best gift we can pass down to those who follow us, because it connects us to our past and our future, allowing us to share a communal memory of what it's like to live in this extraordinary place. By setting aside land for permanent protection, we declare to the future, "This is what we value; this is what we deem precious."

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Audrey Rust whose 20 years at POST have benefitted millions of Americans and millions more to come. She is an exceptional leader, a powerful voice for conservation, and a great American.

MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG NEGOTIATION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 12, 2007

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this bipartisan bill, H.R. 4, the Medicare Prescription Drug Negotiation Act of 2007. This quality, sound bill enjoys support not only from Members from both side of the aisle, but also from the

National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, the Consumer's Union, the AFL-CIO and Families USA. Most important, the majority of Americans are in favor of the principles set forth in this bill.

For generations, among Democrats' top priorities has been to make healthcare more affordable for all Americans. I stand here today, as an exceedingly proud cosponsor of this bill that will take steps toward accomplishing just this. H.R. 4 fights for what is fair and right for our Nation's seniors, and fixes the Medicare prescription drug program as we know it today.

The current prescription drug plan has kept costs high and created needless confusion for the 22.5 million seniors who chose to enroll in Medicare Part D. This number doesn't even begin to contemplate the millions who did not enroll, perhaps because of the complexity of the benefit.

The present Medicare Part D forbids the government from negotiating affordable drug prices at the expense and well being of our seniors. So, while big companies like WalMart receive deals on prescription drugs, the American people can not. According to findings from Families USA, the law's current ban on bargaining for lower drug prices had caused seniors on Medicare to pay significantly more for their drugs.

The history behind the current defective drug plan, introduced by Republicans in 2003, was one of the most corruptive abuses of the legislative process in all of our lifetimes. In the middle of the night, while most Americans were sleeping, Republicans snuck this bill in, loaded with giveaways for the drug and insurance companies. And using their signature scare tactics, the Republican leadership bullied the rest of their party to pass this bill after holding a 15 minute vote open for 3 hours!

Mr. Speaker, such an abuse of legislative power is immoral and wrong. I am pleased to say that such abuse ended when Democrats took up the gavel.

With Democrats in the driver's seat, seniors across America will be a part of new drug plan. A drug plan that will be tailored to America's seniors—and not the big drug companies who are now reporting record profits.

The current Medicare Prescription drug program is not the best we can do for our seniors. Improvement clearly needed to be made to Medicare Part D, to make it more affordable and fair for its beneficiaries.

The comprehensive and affordable plan being passed today is an important step forward toward alleviating seniors' prescription drug price concerns. The bill repeals the provision that bans the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) from negotiating with drug companies for lower prices, and instead requires the Secretary to develop a workable negotiation process to secure affordable drug prices. Now, for instance, where private plans have failed to rein in outrageous drug prices, the Secretary will be allowed to use his bargaining power with the drug companies.

Contrary to Republicans' claim that this bill would destroy the free market system, today's New York Times editorial page notes that, the bill "is sufficiently flexible to allow older Americans to benefit from the best efforts of both the government and the private drug plans."

Moreover, by requiring Medicare to negotiate rates with drug companies, the leftover

funds can be used to fill in beneficiaries' coverage gap. Reducing the gap, known as the doughnut hole, would lower those beneficiaries' out of pocket costs.

But this bill, while imperative and necessary, is only the first step towards improving the Medicare system.

Our seniors deserve a real comprehensive prescription drug plan; one that will be simpler, cheaper, more reliable, and with less "holes" than the former devastating plan.

My fellow Democrats don't merely have a 100-hour plan to fix the rising costs of prescription drugs. We have a long-term agenda on how to fix our Nation's health care system. And we are ready to work with the President and Republicans in Congress to provide true relief and real choices for all Americans.

A TRIBUTE TO CPO BRETT D.
MYLES

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2007

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, it is my honor today to announce that Brett D. Myles has been promoted to the rank of Chief Petty Officer of the United States Naval Sea Cadet Corps. Family and friends of CPO Myles will gather on the battleship *New Jersey* on Saturday, January 21, to honor this outstanding young man.

In order to achieve this high rank, CPO Myles had to complete many months of intensive training as well as a broad range of U.S. Navy courses. Throughout his service, Chief Petty Officer Myles displayed superior qualities of patriotism, leadership, and expertise. He should be very proud of his achievement: Less than 1/2 of 1% of the almost 10,000 Naval Sea Cadets in the program succeed in attaining this rank.

Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to honor CPO Myles for his outstanding achievement. He is truly an inspiration to all U.S. Naval Sea Cadets and to all citizens of this great Nation. I want to again congratulate CPO Myles for this achievement and I wish him the best of luck in the future.

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD S.
WOODWARD

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2007

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor a fellow Californian who has had a long and distinguished career as a political consultant while setting extremely high standards of quality and integrity. For more than 35 years, Richard S. Woodward has guided his political consulting firm to a stunning 98 percent winning record while taking on some of the toughest, seemingly impossible ballot measure campaigns.

Two of America's great institutions helped prepare Mr. Woodward for the future. The United States Marine Corps demanded toughness and a steadfast approach. Graduating from Stanford University required a sharp,

agile and inquisitive mind that could apply varied pieces of information to solving problems.

Mr. Woodward raced up the political ladder from legislative staffer to political director. In 1971 he teamed with the dean of the California state capitol press corps, the late Jack McDowell, to form a new consulting firm. It wasn't long before Woodward & McDowell focused solely on that most Californian of election efforts: the ballot measure campaign. Mr. Woodward basically wrote the book on proposition campaigns: Known for his strategic mind, Mr. Woodward has often led his team to victory when early polls showed the other side started with the sentiment of two-thirds or more of the voters. Even with the demands of campaign after campaign, Mr. Woodward and his wife, Mary, have raised two fine sons, Brendan and Ryan.

On February 20, the American Association of Political Consultants will meet in Miami. One order of business will be to honor the former president and chairman of the bipartisan organization, Richard S. Woodward, with the lifetime achievement award.

Madam Speaker, please join me in commending Mr. Woodward for a job well done and wishing him the best of luck and health as he continues setting the standard.

TRIBUTE TO HENRY LEROY
CLARKE

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2007

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, with a heavy heart, I rise to pay tribute to the life of former General Manager and founder of the Public Employees Union, Local No. 1, Henry LeRoy Clarke who died on January 4, 2007. For more than 38 years, Henry Clarke dedicated his life to improving working conditions for thousands of public employees in the Contra Costa County community. As General Manager, Mr. Clarke was a strong advocate on behalf of union members, transforming the political landscape from one that was highly adverse to organized labor to one that promotes mutual respect between administration and employees.

Henry Clark was born on March 10, 1923, in Denver, Colorado, to a family of seven children. During the depression, Henry moved with his family to Chico, California, to prosper in farming. He graduated from Chico High as Student Body President, and soon after entered WWII to serve in General George Patton's army in Europe. After the war, Henry returned to Chico, where he was named All Western Conference Tackle while playing for Chico State. He transferred to the University of California, Berkeley in 1948 to play football under legendary coach Lynn "Pappy" Waldorf and study labor, economics, and politics. Although Henry was only a young student, he helped organize the food service workers at Cal into one of the first unions in the U.C. system.

Upon graduating with honors from the University of California, Henry became a history teacher in the Napa public schools where he met his lovely wife Maureen. He only taught for 2 years before the school district fired him for none other than trying to form a teachers'

union. From that moment on, Henry dedicated himself to the causes of organizing labor. He became the first full-time executive secretary of the California Federation of Teachers, and soon after the western representative of the American Federation of Teachers. In this position, Henry helped direct the largest collective bargaining election of teachers in the United States during the New York City teacher strikes of 1961 and 1962.

In 1962, Henry took on the job of General Manager for the Contra Costa County Employees Association, a title he would hold for the next 38 years. In 1968, he founded the independent Public Employees Union, Local No. 1, which many county employees joined in order to avoid a passive international union. Henry formed the union based upon fierce democratic principles, providing each member access and a voice in the governance of the union. Under Henry's visionary leadership, Local No. 1 grew from 632 members into a model for controlled unions everywhere achieving a current membership of over 15,000, which includes public employees from Northern California's counties, cities, school districts, and special districts. Henry represented these employees with vigor until his retirement in 2000.

Henry Clarke spent over four decades standing up for the rights of workers in Contra Costa County. He was a true public servant who understood the process of social justice.

To Henry's son and daughter-in-law, Cameron and Ellen Clark, and his grandson, Henry Wallace, I extend my heartfelt condolences. Your loss is shared not only by those who knew Henry personally but also by all those who have been touched by the work he has done. We will be forever grateful for the integrity, passion and determination with which he sought to make our country's work environment fair and safe for all.

TRIBUTE TO SONJA LILLIAN
MACYS

HON. RAUL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2007

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to take the opportunity to honor an environmental leader who has made an indelible mark on the Sonoran Desert region and on the community of Tucson, Arizona. Five years ago, Sonja Lillian Macys came to Tucson and took the town by storm. As an undergraduate, Sonja had mastered the Spanish language in 6 months and lived and worked in Mexico, promoting environmental education and ecotourism. Originally from the horse country of Virginia, she came to Tucson by way of Colorado, where she had skied her way to a Master of Science degree in Protected Area Management specializing in International Conservation, with extensive training in non-profit leadership and management.

Sonja rapidly immersed herself in her new community in the role of the Tucson Audubon Society's Executive Director. Sonja quickly moved to create a broad-based conservation strategy with a significant cross-border element. Sonja's deep commitment to environmental and social justice, sustainability, and public participation soon became Audubon's trademark.

Her contributions to the Southern Arizona community and the U.S.-Mexico borderlands are numerous: creating multi-jurisdictional partnerships to conserve riparian areas and desert landscapes; partnering agencies, conservationists, ranchers, business interests, and students; educating scores of birders and other citizens to become active policy-makers and advisors; protecting critical habitats from devastation wrought by mining, development, overgrazing, and other harmful activities; and creating a community more literate in the articulation of social and environmental justice.

Sonja Macys will leave a legacy that cannot be adequately expressed in words, and gives all of us who have known and worked with her hope that we can truly achieve the goals that we set out to accomplish together. The Tucson community and the wildlife of the Sonoran Desert will sorely miss Ms. Macys, but I have no doubt she will go on to accomplish great things in her future endeavors. I wish her the best of luck.

TRIBUTE TO DANNY VALDEZ

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2007

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Danny Valdez on his inauguration as Webb County Judge on January 1, 2007.

Judge Valdez was first elected into office as justice of the peace in May 1982 and has served for nearly 25 years. This inauguration marks the start of his sixth 4-year term with the court in Webb County. Judge Valdez has received numerous awards such as the Community Service Award by LULAC Council No. 12, and the Nuestro Orgullo Award by S.C.A.N. due to his passion in working with at-risk youth in the community, and addressing issues such as truancy, gang violence, drug abuse, teen pregnancy, and juvenile delinquency. He also was recognized for his commitment to the rule of law by the Laredo Bar Association with the Liberty Bell Award and the 2005 Hispanic of the Year Award by LULAC Council No. 7.

Aside from presiding over one of the busiest courts, Judge Valdez is actively involved in community activities such as working with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice Education Program in bringing male and female inmates to local middle and high schools to educate students about the dangers involved in making the wrong choices. He worked with the Lamar Bruni Vergara Trust in the development of the Lamar Bruni Vergara Boys' Scout Camp Huisache and was also instrumental in the development of the Lamar Bruni Inner City Recreation Center. Judge Valdez also reached out to low-income families by chairing the Annual Toys for Tejanitos Drive, the Angel Wish Program, and the Annual Fishing Derby for physically challenged students.

Judge Valdez has given out over \$60,000 in scholarships to promising young students from the Laredo Independent School District. He also started the Supply Our Students Campaign that has raised funds for nearly 70 tons of school supplies for low-income students in Webb County. He is truly one of the great Laredoans and it is because of him that the youth in the community have realized their im-

mense potential in creating a new and better future for themselves by learning from the values of Judge Valdez.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize the dedication of Judge Danny Valdez to his community.

FREEDOM FOR RAYMUNDO PERDIGÓN BRITO

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2007

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak about Raymundo Perdigón Brito, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Perdigón Brito is an independent journalist in Cuba who is striving to create a society that tolerates human rights, freedom, and democracy. He has been a peaceful supporter of bringing the most fundamental of human rights to a people shackled by a tyrant's brutal machinery of repression. Unfortunately, because of his unwavering support of freedom for the people of Cuba Mr. Perdigón Brito has been targeted by the dictatorship.

In November of 2006, Mr. Perdigón, his sister Ana Margarita Perdigón and several other journalists launched the Yayabo Press news agency. On November 29, 2006, just 12 days after its launch, Mr. Perdigón Brito was arrested by State Security thugs and told to cease his journalistic activities or that he would be sent to prison. Mr. Perdigón Brito was always aware of the risks he was taking as a journalist and he was well aware of his many colleagues serving long prison terms in Castro's hellish gulags, yet rather than allow his voice to be silenced, he preferred to fight for the cause of freedom and democracy on that enslaved island.

On December 5, 2006, Mr. Perdigón Brito was "sentenced" to 4 years in the inhuman squalor of Castro's gulags on charges that he posed a "pre-criminal danger to society". A charge often used to detain pro-democracy activists, even when they have committed no offense, simply because the regime regards them a potential threat to its grotesquely brutal and repressive totalitarian control.

In Mr. Perdigón's absence, his sister, Ana Margarita Perdigón, replaced him as Editor of Yayabo Press. This development did not pass unchecked or unnoticed within the inner circles of the regime's henchmen. According to a dissident journalist who spoke to Reporters Without Borders, "The political police knew this and did everything to ensure the news agency is disbanded as soon as possible".

On the morning of December 5, 2006, as Mr. Perdigón Brito's relatives were leaving the courthouse in the central province of Sancti Spiritus, Cuba, nearly 100 regime thugs attacked them viciously. This barbarous and vile hate crime was carried out with such regimented violence that Mr. Perdigón Brito's father was hospitalized due to serious injuries sustained during the attack.

Madam Speaker, it is repulsive that only 90 miles from our shore, brave souls like that of Mr. Perdigón are locked in dungeons because they too believe in the freedoms we hold sacred to our way of life. My colleagues, let us remember those whose suffer under the totali-

tarian nightmare that is the Castro regime. Let us demand the immediate release of Raymundo Perdigón Brito and every prisoner of conscience in the dungeons of totalitarian despots.

TRIBUTE TO MR. TONY HOUSEMAN

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2007

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Tony Houseman for his continued conservation efforts and his dedicated service to the Houston Safari Club. Tony has been a member of the Houston Safari Club for over twenty years and has served as the Club's Convention Chair in 1996 and the President from 1997–1998. He also has been awarded three distinguished awards from the Houston Safari Club with the 1998 Conservation Award, the 2005 Lifetime Service Award, and the 2007 Frank Green Award.

His tireless leadership has had a positive impact in Texas and across our nation. When Tony and Ray Petty were asked by Congressman Jack Fields to help organize and start the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus, which I am a proud member, he never hesitated in saying yes. Every year, for ten straight years, they traveled to Washington D.C. to increase the membership and clout of the Caucus and help fight for the rights of the hunter and the hunting community. Now, the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus has one of the highest memberships and continues to advocate the interests of sportsmen.

Tony also has taken a leadership role in too many projects to list, with notable ones being Operation Bright Lights and the Tony Houseman State Park and Wildlife Management Area. Operation Bright Lights raises funds and works with professional hunters to build schools and water wells in Tanzania, and recently he and his wife Gisela took a trip there and visited one of the newly built schools. For the state park, Tony donated 1,500 acres to conserve the Blue Elbow Swamp in South East Texas. This 3,300 acre conservation site on the Sabine River remains a magical place for wildlife.

Madam Speaker, Tony Houseman is the consummate hunter and conservationist and a friend I deeply admire. Thank you for helping me honor him today.

COLLEGE STUDENT RELIEF ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2007

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 5, a bill that would expand educational opportunity for millions of young Americans by slicing interest rates on federally-subsidized student loans in half.

This fair, well-balanced legislation would open the doors to America's colleges and universities for millions of our sons and daughters who would have otherwise been dissuaded by

the high cost of pursuing a higher education. Among those millions will be young men and women who will be the first in their families to attend college. There will be inventors and innovators, businessmen and women, generals, scientists, leaders of all stripes, and, surely, future members of this body.

At the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) in my district, students entering school in 2007 will save \$2,300 on an average debt of \$13,800, and student entering in 2011, when the full interest rate cuts take effect, will save over \$4,400 on the same amount of debt.

These savings would mean the world to my community of El Paso and to Latino communities across the country. This is true because Hispanic students have historically borrowed less on average than other groups, a reluctance that means students are often too busy working for a paycheck to complete their degrees in a timely fashion. The six billion dollars in loan relief we are passing today will mean our kids will have the ability to borrow the money they need to finance their educations and ultimately get the jobs that will allow them prosperous lives.

What we are doing today also has broader significance. It is significant to the strength of our economy and the security of our country. If America is to compete economically with countries like China and India and fill key positions in our national security agencies, we need to start by sending more kids to college. Under current policy, financial barriers will prevent 6.4 million high school graduates from attending college and would cost our economy 12 million college-educated workers by the year 2020. This is a crisis, Madam Speaker. We need to recognize right now that the investments in education we make or choose not to make today will determine our economic future—whether or not our grandchildren and great-grandchildren have high-quality jobs.

College access is an integral part of our competitiveness and security puzzle, because we will not find the answers to the challenges we face as a nation without a well-educated and innovative workforce. The bill we are passing today will make our country a safer and a more prosperous place.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to pass this bill, and I look forward to continuing this dialogue about the importance of education for national competitiveness and security.

TRIBUTE TO ARTHUR NOZIK,
SARAH KURTZ AND JERRY OLSON

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2007

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize three researchers from the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, the premier national laboratory for renewable energy and energy efficiency research.

The American Chemical Society recently honored Arthur Nozik, a senior research fellow at NREL, with a special tribute of accomplishments in *The Journal of Physical Chemistry B*.

During the past 30 years, Dr. Nozik has earned a leading position in the fields of photoelectrochemistry, semiconductor-mol-

ecule interfaces, nanoscience and quantum size effects in semiconductors and carrier dynamics in semiconductor quantum dots and quantum wells. He has written more than 160 peer-reviewed publications, 35 book chapters and has edited or co-authored several books in these fields.

Dr. Nozik has been awarded 11 U.S. patents. He also invented a novel photochemical diode for splitting water to generate hydrogen, and the identification of several important solar photoconversion approaches using hot carrier effects, size quantization, and superlattice concepts that could, in principle, enable a leap in efficiency of solar energy conversion.

Dr. Nozik, who joined NREL in 1978, received the 2002 Energy Research Award of the Electrochemical Society. He was a senior editor of *The Journal of Physical Chemistry* from 1993–2005 and is a fellow of both the American Physical Society and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

NREL solar energy researchers Sarah Kurtz and Jerry Olson have spent the past 20 years developing the multi-junction solar cell. These solar cells have demonstrated higher solar energy conversion efficiency than conventional silicon cells and are already the choice for most space applications. For their contributions to the field of photovoltaic energy, Kurtz and Olson have been recognized as laureates of the Dan David Prize, given by the Dan David Foundation in cooperation with Tel Aviv University and the French Ministry of Culture and Communication. They and other winners will share \$3 million in prize money.

The photovoltaics community has made tremendous progress during the last 30 years. In the past few years, the investment in concentrator systems using high-efficiency, multijunction solar cells has mushroomed. Although this investment is not yet reflected by large installations, the Dan David prize recognizes this technology for its future promise to transform energy markets.

I'm enormously proud to have NREL in my district and equally proud of the work of these three scientists.

MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG PRICE NEGOTIATION ACT OF 2007

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 12, 2007

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4, the Medicare Prescription Drug Price Negotiation Act of 2007, because we owe our seniors a drug benefit program that is accessible and affordable. I believe that this legislation brings us one step closer.

My fellow Democrats and I were outraged that the current Medicare Part D drug benefit forces many elderly beneficiaries to choose between their medication and basic needs, such as food and utilities. The health concerns of our elderly Medicare beneficiaries are urgent, and I am proud that we have now passed legislation that will arm the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services with an additional tool to address these needs.

The intent of H.R. 4 is to open a path of negotiation of drug prices to remove the burden of affordability from the shoulders of our elder-

ly. This bill should neither tie the hands of private drug plans, nor create unnecessary hurdles for the pharmaceutical companies that develop life-saving medicine. Rather, the intent is to give the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services the needed authority to effectively and efficiently offer affordable prices to seniors.

We need Medicare Part D to be a benefit, and not a burden, to our friends and neighbors who use it. The fact that these individuals could get prescription drugs cheaper through Canada, Drugstore.com, or Costco is not only a disservice to Americans who trust Medicare for the healthcare they need—it is not good public policy. Every year, premiums and drug prices rise, and seniors are forced to bear more and more of the cost of their healthcare.

However, we cannot let this bill and its provisions become the tool that kills the goose that lays the golden eggs. The United States is the international leader of pharmaceutical and medical innovation. Every year, we achieve numerous historical breakthroughs in medicine and treatment that improve the quality of life of millions of Americans, due to the research and dedication of our pharmaceutical companies and their tens of thousands of employees. It is because of American innovation that an HIV/AIDS or cancer diagnosis is no longer a death sentence; that an athlete and an amputee can be the same person; and that a child with asthma does not have to stay in after school.

Research and development are costly. Inherent in each pursuit is a great amount of risk. On average, only one out of every 10,000 possible medications successfully makes it through development and Food and Drug Administration approval. It can take more than 15 years and \$800 million to develop just one drug. Congress should not allow any public policy to move forward that would indirectly hinder innovation or advances in medicine. As we make needed improvements in the Medicare Part D plan, we must ensure that scientific advances continue. Therefore, we must balance our encouragement of competition and innovation in the private market with public health.

I believe that with H.R. 4 we are one step closer to answering the needs of our elderly. We have a real chance to provide a more accessible, affordable, and effective drug benefit to our seniors. Americans are living longer, healthier lives than ever before, and it is our duty to ensure that this trend continues.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HOME OWNERSHIP FOR AMERICA'S VETERANS ACT OF 2007

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2007

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Home Ownership for America's Veterans Act of 2007 along with my distinguished colleague from California, Congressman WALLY HERGER.

The Home Ownership for America's Veterans Act of 2007 corrects an inequity in the federal Qualified Veterans Mortgage Bonds (QVMB) program available to a number of states for the purpose of financing home loans

for veterans. Specifically, in some states, QVMBs home loan financing is only available to veterans who signed up for military duty prior to 1977.

It is time we address this inequity. Our veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan deserve the opportunity to purchase a home with QVMBs. Further, in our home state of California, only 4.1 percent of our veterans are eligible for a home loan through QVMB bonds.

Our legislation extends the program and opens it up to new veterans residing in California and Texas. Congress passed legislation in the 109th Congress making the home loan program available to newly discharged veterans in the other states eligible for QVMBs financing.

It is crucial that we act swiftly to give these veterans and their families the ability to purchase and own a home in California and Texas.

This legislation will benefit every state eligible for QVMBs by requiring annual adjustments to the federal bond limit indexed to the Freddie Mac Conventional Mortgage Home Price Index. A higher bond limit means California, Texas, Oregon, Wisconsin, and Alaska—the five eligible states—will have the ability to provide more of their veterans with home loans. We must keep QVMB financing compatible with national housing costs.

The Home Ownership for Veterans Act of 2007 will help our newly discharged heroes purchase homes while ensuring that state veterans' home loan programs remain viable.

Thank you very much Madam Speaker for the opportunity to introduce legislation to help veterans purchase homes and achieve the American Dream for their families.

A TRIBUTE TO AL ECHOLS, ESQ.

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2007

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Al Echols, Esq., a Philadelphia legend who after serving 44 years as the executive director of North City Congress has announced his retirement.

Under the leadership of Mr. Echols, North City Congress has remained a valued institution meeting the changing needs of a changing community in North Philadelphia. During its first decade North City Congress represented a federation of neighborhood organizations committed to positive community change.

North City Congress later became a vital social service agency. Today, the agency operates two senior citizens centers that offer meals, social, recreational and cultural activities and in-home management services for the frail and home-bound. It also offers financial management and estate planning for seniors and fiscal management and technical assistance for community-based organizations.

Mr. Echols, a graduate of Virginia Union University and the Howard University Law School, marshaled his considerable acumen in the struggle to gain political power for African Americans in Philadelphia. In 1971, he was a council-at-large candidate on the Thatcher Longstreth Republican ticket in a hard fought race against Democrat Frank Rizzo.

Known for his wit, Mr. Echols is fiercely opinionated and a political sage with whom one cannot have a brief conversation. Not only does he love to explain the nuances of his points of view he punctuates his conversations with a laugh that can shake the grand mansion that houses North City Congress.

As he retires, Al Echols leaves an indelible stamp of good will, principled leadership and service.

A TRIBUTE TO LARRY SHEINGOLD

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2007

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, we rise today to recognize the retirement of Larry Sheingold after thirty-six years of service as a staff member in the California State Legislature.

Larry's years of service included ten years as an Assembly staff member and twenty-six years working for the State Senate. During his career he worked for Assembly Speakers Bob Moretti and Leo McCarthy and several State Senators including Jim Costa, Betty Kamette, Henry Mello and the current Senate President Pro Tem, Don Perata.

In addition, Larry Sheingold served on the National Conference of State Legislatures' Executive Committee from 2003–06. He is one of only nineteen legislative staff members ever to do so.

Though Larry Sheingold may be on the understated side, he has always possessed a giant intellect and is a master of campaign strategies. His advice to candidates and officeholders alike has always been keen, thoughtful and delivered with a quick wit and much humor. Larry is one of those individuals that combine a rare blend of policy expertise and astute political judgment.

Thirty-six years ago, when Larry started his career as a legislative staff member, Ronald Reagan was governor, legislative committee votes were not public and no woman had ever served in the California State Senate. During his career all that has changed and as the invitation to his retirement event stated, "The system may be working, but Larry won't be."

But to paraphrase the late British politician, Lord Salisbury, Larry Sheingold is not the type of gentleman to retire gracefully into the background.

Today, we take great pleasure in honoring, through these remarks, a good friend, a former staff member and a valued advisor, Larry Sheingold. We wish him and his wife Judy only the best of times in retirement, though that may only last until the next election cycle.

COLLEGE STUDENT RELIEF ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2007

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, anyone who knows a recent college graduate is well aware of the way many young people struggle to pay

their student loans. By slightly reducing the interest rate on student loans, H.R. 5, while far from perfect, will help ease this burden. A commendable feature of this bill is that, instead of placing new burdens on taxpayers, it pays for the reduction in interest rates by reducing subsidies to financial institutions. Thus, the bill does not increase the deficit, taxes, or the size or scope of government.

All-too-often, government programs, which the taxpaying public believes help lower-income Americans, actually provide government subsidies for politically powerful business interests. For example, in the student loan program under discussion today, taxpayer dollars are provided to financial institutions in return for those institutions agreeing to provide student loans under terms set by the government. By reducing subsidies for financial institutions in order to benefit recent graduates, H.R. 5 takes a step toward ensuring the student loan program actually focuses on helping students and recent graduates, instead of using taxpayer dollars for a disguised form of corporate welfare.

In addition to passing H.R. 5, Congress should also help more Americans afford college by passing my Make College Affordable Act, H.R. 193, that makes college tuition tax deductible. There has been talk of bringing legislation like H.R. 193 to the floor later this year. I hope all my colleagues—regardless of their positions on the bill before us today—can unite behind helping middle- and working-class Americans afford college by supporting my Make College Affordable Act or similar legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2007

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, pursuant to my leave of absence, I am submitting for the RECORD how I would have voted if I had been present earlier today, in addition to comments that I request also be entered into the RECORD.

Rollcall #34, "yea"—Motion to Adjourn, rollcall #35, "no"—Ordering the Previous Question, and rollcall #36, "no"—Agreeing to H. Res. 66.

H. Res. 66 is a closed rule that prohibits any amendments to the bill from being considered by the House. Madam Speaker, on November 14, 2006 you wrote in a Christian Science Monitor op-ed that "Democrats pledge to make this the most honest, ethical, and open Congress in history." I am deeply disappointed that past pledges for an open Congress have been broken so quickly with H. Res. 66 and other closed rules imposed by the majority. I believe the People's House operates best when legislation moves through regular order and uses our Committee process where members from both sides of the aisle have an opportunity to work together to improve legislation. Under the new "Closed-door Congress," the House has yet to consider a bill that was moved through regular order and considered by the Committee of jurisdiction. H. Res. 66 establishes the rules for considering H.R. 6, and, as a senior member of the Natural Resources Committee, I have significant

concerns about some of the provisions in H.R. 6. In particular, there are provisions addressing the 1998–99 Clinton Administration OCS leases that are ambiguous and may result in levies on all oil and natural gas lease holders in the Gulf of Mexico, not just the 1998–99 leaseholders. This and other poorly written provisions in H.R. 6 could have been corrected had the legislation been considered by the Natural Resources Committee or had the majority allowed amendments to be considered on the House floor. Unfortunately, the majority's "Closed-door Congress" chose to break its pledge of an "open Congress" and prevented these opportunities to improve the legislation.

Rollcall #37, "no"—On Consideration of H.R. 6, rollcall #38, "yes"—Motion to Recommit H.R. 6, rollcall #39, "no"—Motion to Table the Appeal of the Ruling of the Chair, rollcall #40, "no"—Final Passage of H.R. 6.

H.R. 6 represents the first vote for a tax increase in more than 13 years. I have repeatedly pledged to oppose any and all efforts to increase the marginal income tax rates for individuals and businesses—and I stand by my pledge. The majority has claimed that passage of H.R. 6 will roll-back subsidies to the oil and natural gas industry that Congress passed in the Energy Policy Act of 2005. However, a Congressional Research Service report released in December of 2006 concluded that, on balance, the bill imposes "a net tax increase on the industry of nearly \$300 million over 11 years." Further raising taxes on the oil and natural gas industry will do nothing to help lower the price of gasoline at the pump Americans are paying and, ultimately, increases our country's dependence on foreign sources of oil. Madam Speaker, I am truly stricken by the fact that the new majority has chosen to bring a bill to the House floor during its highly touted first "100 Hours" that will benefit and strengthen the hands of the likes of Hugo Chavez. I oppose H.R. 6 because it will result in job losses, increase the price of gasoline at the pump, increase the cost of heating homes, and increase dependence on foreign sources of oil. I support an energy policy that takes steps to truly reduce America's dependence on foreign sources of oil while our Nation continues to invest and improve the development of renewable sources of energy and energy efficiency.

Rollcall #41, "yes"—Adoption of H. Res. 62—Congratulating the Grand Valley State University Lakers"

COLLEGE STUDENT RELIEF ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2007

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 5, the College Student Relief Act. This bill is designed to make college more affordable and accessible by cutting the interest rate on subsidized student loans for undergraduates in half over the next 5 years—from 6.8 percent today to 3.4 percent by 2011. This proposal is targeted on assisting the low- and middle-income students with the most financial need: those who receive subsidized student loans.

Over the last 5 years, the cost of attending college has skyrocketed, putting college out of reach for more and more students in my district and across the country. Tuition and fees at public universities have increased by 41 percent since 2001. In addition to rising tuition and fees, over the last 5 years interest rates on student loans have jumped by almost 2 percentage points, further increasing the cost of college.

According to the Congressional Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance, financial barriers will prevent 4.4 million high school graduates from attending a 4-year public college over the next decade, and prevent another 2 million high school graduates from attending any college at all. Madam Speaker, the United States is the richest country in the world. We should be able to educate our young people to the full extent of their ability. Anything less fails not only our students, but our entire nation.

More than ever, the health of our economy rests on having a highly-skilled and well-educated workforce. College access is the key to our remaining strong in the face of an increasingly competitive global economy. Without changes, by the year 2020, the United States is projected to face a shortage of up to 12 million college-educated workers, directly threatening America's economic strength.

Once fully phased in, this bill would save the typical borrower, with \$13,800 in subsidized federal student loan debt, approximately \$4,400 over the life of their loan. Cutting student loan interest rates is supported by a large majority of Americans, including majorities of Republicans, Independents, and Democrats. Furthermore, the bill is fully paid for—meeting all pay-as-you-go requirements.

Madam Speaker, you don't need to be a genius to recognize the critical importance of this legislation. This one should be a no-brainer. Let's pass H.R. 5.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION "ELIMINATING MODERN DAY SLAVERY"

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2007

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, last Thursday, January 11th, along with our civil rights crusader, JOHN LEWIS reintroduced a resolution on the tragedy of modern-day slavery and urging the United States to take immediate steps to end it.

The institution of chattel slavery practiced in the United States for over 200 years was not only a past shame in U.S. history but also world history. Yet, this continues today. Throughout the world, an estimated 27 million people are suffering as slaves including the United States. Each year millions become vulnerable to the resurgence of slavery. People forced to survive with little or no resources fall victim to abuse and exploitation in developing countries whose economies slip further into extreme poverty caused by debt and corruption. Still modern-day slavery is ever more expansive encompassing chattel slavery, human trafficking, indentured or bonded labor, forced labor, forced marriage and the worst forms of child labor.

Slavery is rampant in India, Southeast Asia, Africa, and South America, as well as, once again the United States. In Africa, cash crops such as cotton, sugar, and cocoa are produced by child and bonded labor. The Ivory Coast which supplies over half the world's supply of cocoa utilizes child slave labor in at least 90 percent of the cocoa plantations. Slavery still exists in Sudan, remnants from the North and South civil war. In Myanmar, slave labor harvest agricultural products such as sugarcane. In Eastern Europe and Southeast Asia, human trafficking and forced marriage run unimpeded. Moreover, I am repulsed that an estimated 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders and disturbed that annual global profits on trafficked forced labor total \$44.3 billion.

This is an historic year for many of the victims of slavery and their descendants. 2007 marks the 200th Anniversary of the Abolition of the Transatlantic Slave Trade, the transport of Africans as slaves into the British American colonies. Our country can no longer allow the practice of slavery to continue further in the 21st century. We must take action to address this issue. The solution is one of political resolve not capability, for we have at our disposal numerous means that will eliminate these human rights violations.

My resolution expresses the sense of the House that the abolition of modern-day slavery should:

Become a high priority in U.S. foreign and domestic policy to eliminate all forms of modern-day slavery by 2017;

Reflect and advance the commitment of U.S. trade, aid, and investment policies for the freedom for all people;

Expand protection and legal options for victims of modern-day slavery;

Form a comprehensive coalition between governments, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, and individuals to forge a sustained global action plan to fight modern-day slavery; and

Become a priority at the 2007 Group of 8 (G-8) Summit in Germany.

I welcome my colleagues' support and urge the House Leadership to bring it promptly to the House floor for consideration. This year is the time to mark the end of modern-day slavery for victims worldwide.

A TRIBUTE TO SENATOR PAUL TSONGAS

HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2007

Mr. MEEHAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember one of my heroes, Paul Tsongas. Paul Tsongas was a great champion of my hometown of Lowell, Massachusetts and an extraordinary American, whose courage and convictions should inspire us all.

It has been ten years since he lost his battle with cancer and ten years since the American people lost one of their greatest public servants.

Paul was one of my early role models and mentors, and I'm honored to follow in his footsteps as the Congressman for the 5th District of Massachusetts.

Born of Greek immigrants, Paul grew up in our joint hometown of Lowell, Massachusetts.

After graduating from Dartmouth College, he became one of the first to answer President John F. Kennedy's call to public service by joining the newly formed Peace Corps. Paul's experience in the Peace Corps would lead him to great heights as a standard-bearer of the Democratic Party.

After his service in the Peace Corps and as a City Councilor in our hometown of Lowell, Paul was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1974. In 1978 he ran and won a seat in the United States Senate where he would serve until 1984 when he retired after being diagnosed with cancer.

Paul loved people and public service. His direct speaking style and heartfelt manner captured the hearts of the nation during his service in the United States Congress and especially during his campaign for President.

As a politician, Paul lived his beliefs. Perhaps Paul's greatest strength was that as a politician he took risks, challenging the tired assumptions about how change should take place.

Paul's vision of what a Democrat can and should be was an inspiration to me and continues to inspire Democrats across the country. Leading by example, Paul expanded the reach of our party and helped shape our promising future.

His leadership forced the debate on dealing with our national debt. At the same time, he reminded us that a Democrat can and should be pro-worker, and pro-family, and also pro-business-pro-employment.

Paul's career as a politician may have been cut short because of his battle with cancer, but his illness never prevented him from fighting for the issues, people, and the city he loved.

In my hometown of Lowell, Paul's fingerprints are all over the remarkable redevelopment and revitalization that has occurred over the past two decades. In the streets of Lowell today, I am constantly reminded of the lessons Paul taught me—that in every community you must preserve that which has meaning and beauty for its users and its visitors.

Paul was a visionary: he envisioned the connection of people to the places where they lived and worked. But more importantly, Paul was a doer: he identified significant community assets and challenged everyone around him to preserve and make visible these deeply felt dreams.

Paul motivated Lowell residents to make these dreams a reality. He didn't stop there. Throughout Massachusetts, he was able to rally similar support. In Concord, the Walden Woods Project preserved the lands and water sanctified by Henry David Thoreau. On Cape Cod, he helped to establish the Cape Cod Commission that is dedicated to protecting critical open space.

As a private citizen, he made significant contributions to education and the environment. Walden Woods, Cape Cod, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, the Board of Higher Education all benefited from his leadership and ideas.

And he demonstrated compassion and caring to those who sought comfort and advice on how to deal with life-threatening illness.

I could go on and on about Paul Tsongas, and about how he was an extraordinary individual, but I won't.

I'll close with this—When announcing his presidential candidacy, Paul Tsongas said to his supporters, Just as we reach back to our

ancestors for our fundamental values, so we, as guardians of that legacy, must reach ahead to our children and their children. And we do so with a sense of sacredness in that reaching.

I'll simply say that I'm humbled and honored beyond words to follow in Paul Tsongas, footsteps. He truly devoted himself to making a difference not just for our generation, but for our children and future generations.

My thoughts and prayers go out to Paul's daughters, Ashley, Katina, and Molly; his sisters, Thaleia and Vicki, and especially to his wife, Niki, who continues to champion the issues that Paul spent his life fighting for.

IN TRIBUTE TO THE DISTINGUISHED CAREER OF SERVICE AND PHILANTHROPY OF
WILFRED GEORGE GOODEN

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2007

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Wilfred George Gooden, a great citizen and patriot, a philanthropist and Good Samaritan. Wilfred Gooden shuffled off the mortal coil and slipped the surly bonds of earth on Saturday, January 6, 2007. He was one month shy of his 75th birthday. More importantly, he was a son, a brother, an uncle, a friend, a neighbor, a servant of God, and a loving husband to his darling Sybil for 57 years.

Madam Speaker, I do not think any of the many people who knew and loved Wilfred Gooden thought that when he returned to his native land of Jamaica in December 2006, that it would have been his last trip from his adopted home in the United States of America? I do not think any of them dreamed that those last fleeting words on the phone or in person would have been their last contact with him before he took his last breath on the Sabbath, January 6, 2007 at the Andrews Memorial Hospital, Kingston, Jamaica, with his faithful wife, Sybil, of 57 years, at his bedside.

Who would have known that the Lord was going to take Wilfred Gooden's hands off the plough and say: "Your work is done, my faithful servant—it's now someone else's turn."

Wilfred Gooden was the last of three sons born to Mr. and Mrs. Gooden in Westmoreland, Jamaica. His parents and brother, Sam predeceased him. Vibert his eldest brother, lives in Atlanta, Georgia. His mother Ethel and stepfather Edburn took care of the family after the death of Wilfred's father. A very close-knit family, Wilfred and his brother telephoned each other and had long chats each day. Even in his last days on earth, Wilfred and his brother Vibert were on the phone.

Brought up in a Christian home, Wilfred was baptized at the Rollington Town Seventh-Day Adventist church, and never forgot his first love—Jesus. His rich baritone voice could be heard in praises as he called his family and all who entered his home to worship morning and evening—wherever he was.

His Christ-like character was seen in his deeds, the way he treated everyone with whom he came in contact—it did not matter their race, ethnicity, gender, religion, political persuasion, title or status; everyone was treated with respect, courtesy and kindness.

In his youth it was not unusual for Wilfred to bring home, unannounced, three or four friends for the weekend who would be warmly received by a generous but sometimes frustrated mother.

In 1944, Wilfred traveled to the United States where he settled in New York City. For many years, he pursued and enjoyed a successful career in mechanical dentistry. Former clients still praise the quality and craftsmanship of his work.

Always on the lookout for new adventures and challenges, Wilfred invested in a brownstone on West 142nd Street, which it needed some repairs. With much enthusiasm, he immediately utilized his knowledge of plumbing as a result of his liberal arts training which required him to learn a trade as a part of degree program and performed the work himself, and in the process launched a new career for himself in housing rehabilitation.

To gain more knowledge about his business, Wilfred attended City College and earned a Certificate in Building Engineering. In 1961, he organized a general contracting company with the basic purpose of renovating existing properties. As owner and builder of multiple dwellings, Wilfred renovated a group of old tenements into two and three bedroom modern, class A apartments. In many areas of New York City, Wilfred has revitalized entire neighborhoods, creating homes that gave and still give each dweller a sense of renewed hope and dignity. As general contractor for Maurel Realty Corporation, he renovated a one hundred apartment complex and for Almeric Realty Corporation, he renovated a fifty apartment complex. Serving in dual capacity as Project Manager and Field Superintendent, he directed every aspect of these massive projects.

Wilfred was appointed by Mayor David Dinkins of the City of New York to work with Roger Starr, Administrator of Housing as consultant to the City's Housing program in urban areas. He reviewed the proposed projects with a vision of minimizing costs and suggested rehabilitation of buildings in the city's most needed areas.

Wilfred George Gooden walked with kings, but never lost the common touch. His walls both in Jamaica and New York are filled with photographs and citations from both the American and Jamaican governments including former President Bill Clinton, former Jamaican Prime Ministers Norman Manley, Michael Manley, Alexander Bustamante, Edward Seaga and P.J. Patterson, as well as government officials in New York and Jamaica, church leaders, industry leaders and the leaders of educational institutions.

Wilfred Gooden was, above all, a community servant. He sat on the Board of Directors of: Housing Board in New York; FISH Clinics in Jamaica; The American Friends of Jamaica; Concerned Committee for Christian Education; and NAJASO.

Wilfred Gooden was honored as a philanthropist by Message Magazine in 1996 for his community service and humanitarianism and awarded honorary Doctor of Letters degree from Faith and Grant College in Huntsville, Alabama.

Wilfred Gooden wanted others to succeed and helped countless Jamaicans relocating to New York to get jobs—many in his own construction company. When housing was needed, when food was required, when winter

came and clothes and heat were required to keep bodies warm, they and others in the community knew whom to call: Wilfred Gooden. His charity knew no bounds. In the early years of their marriage, almost every Jamaican relocating to New York made the pilgrimage to the home of Wilfred Gooden for assistance in gaining a foothold in a new land.

Wilfred Gooden was committed to his Church—the Ephesus Seventh-Day Adventist Church in Manhattan. He served as M.V. Leader, Sabbath School teacher, Sabbath School Superintendent and since 1980, as Chairman of the Building Committee, where he did so much to see that the physical plant of the Church was maintained in a manner befitting God's people.

Christian Education was his passion. In 1980, he established The Concerned Committee for Christian Education to provide funds towards Christian schooling for Jamaica's children and organized a concert featuring the Cantata Choir from New York, held at the National Arena in Jamaica, of which the proceeds were used to refurbish and re-start the New Hope Preparatory school at the North Street Seventh-day Adventist Church. The school started out with one teacher and two students. The school has grown to 197 students, 12 teachers and a staff of 5.

Wilfred Gooden provided scholarships for young people who would otherwise not have been able to attend his alma mater, Northern Caribbean University, formerly West Indies College.

Wilfred Gooden personally assisted students from Jamaica, New York, Alabama, and Kenya. Each summer for the past 15 years, he has arranged employment for many students from various Adventist Colleges, thus aiding many in their pursuit of higher Christian education.

As much as he supported students, it was not only "classroom knowledge" that Wilfred Gooden wanted to instill. The Concerned Committee for Christian Education also sponsored the cost for 26 children from Jamaica to go to Disney World in Orlando, Florida, who would not have otherwise been able to have that fun-filled and exciting experience.

The young ladies and gentlemen of his hometown church—Ephesus in Harlem, New York—knew that their tertiary education was assured if they were willing to learn etiquette and social graces. All of the participants worked hard on the annual programs which his team, headed by Ms. Valerie Bennett and Mr. Joseph Merriweather managed. As the young ladies and gentlemen prepared for the Cotillion Ball at the Waldorf Astoria in New York, they stood tall in full bloom and presented themselves under the direction of these nurturers. It is important to note that while this program facilitated the personal development of these young people, it also funded scholarships for their tertiary education.

Jamaican students pursuing medicine, engineering, dentistry, and other disciplines overseas were assured of tuition, housing and personal assistance. Wilfred Gooden wanted to ensure that all Jamaican youth had a chance to succeed so they could make meaningful contributions to society.

Wilfred Gooden loved his native Jamaica and was always willing to support his native land. He thought young people from the country should learn Jamaican civic history and government, so with the authorization of the Jamaican government, he distributed copies of the Jamaican Constitution to every high school student in Jamaica.

Wilfred Gooden brought notable Americans, including former Mayor David Dinkins and New York City Councilwoman Una Clarke, to

the campus of his alma mater, Northern Caribbean University. He wanted people to know the quality of the Jamaican educational system and what his church and school were doing for the world.

The philosophy and creed that Wilfred Gooden lived by was simple:

To leave some simple mark behind
To keep his having lived in mind
To be an honest generous foe
To play any part even if the honors did not fall on him.

And like Edgar Guest would say:

I'd like to think when life is done
That I had filled a needed post
That here and there I'd paid my fare
With more than idle talk and boast;
That I had taken gifts divine,
The breath of life and manhood fine,
And tried to use them now and then
In service to my fellow men.

Madam Speaker, the famed writer John Donne declared "Death comes equally to us all and makes us all equal when it comes." Donne goes on:

Death, be not proud,
Though some have called thee
Mighty and dreadful, for
Thou art not so,
For, those whom thou think'st
Thou dost overthrow
Die not, poor death, nor yet canst thou kill me.

In closing Madam Speaker, let me say that although my heart is heavy with sorrow, it is also filled with joy because I was one of the thousands of people whose lives has elevated and enriched by my association with the remarkable, the unforgettable, the irreplaceable Wilfred George Gooden. He was a role model, a hero, a mentor, a friend. He was my uncle and I will miss him terribly.